



## **Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes**

February 1, 2018 7:30 - 9:00pm - Jefferson Cutter House

### **Attendees:**

**Members:** Paul Goldberg, Larry Slotnick, Dori Mazor, Ellen Callaway, Priya Sankalia, Juli Brazile, Charlotte Milan

**Associate Members:** Rich Piazza

**Volunteers:** Patti Palanza-Paynter, Lenny Paritsky, Joe Hostetter

**Welcome and Introductions:** We offered brief self-introductions

**Approval of Minutes:** January 2018 meeting minutes were approved as written. Thanks Priya

**DPW Recycling Coordinator's Report:** Charlotte provided her usual double-sided handout. It is attached to these minutes, and contained five Program Updates. Most time was spent discussing the Community Food Scrap Collection pilot program that will launch by April 1st with three locations. Charlotte held three community meetings about it during the past month. She also discussed EcoFest (see below) and the MassRecycle (aka R3) Conference (see below.) **Finally, Charlotte reminded us that ARC's \$3000 annual budget has barely been tapped since the fiscal year began in July 2017.**

**EcoFest:** March 24th 10am to 2:00pm at Town Hall. EcoFest 2018 has a theme of "Greenward", with sub-themes of Land & Water Mgmt, Plants and Pollinators, and Healthy Ecosystems. It's produced by a Committee representing DPW, Vision 2020, and other groups. Actions: Larry will submit a proposal to the Committee via Charlotte regarding ARC's desire to have a table. Dori will create a SignUp Genius page once we are approved. Larry will make sure the usual ARC tabling materials get to Town Hall on the morning of EcoFest. Larry will also determine if the Health Department will have a table there and will be discussing the plastic bag ban. See: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/departments/public-works/ecofest>

### **Unfunded EcoFest action mandates:**

- Answer questions about the bag ban that launches March 1 at Large retailers: Do we provide a handout? Do we sell ARC canvas bags ?
- There is a Town-wide litter clean up in April that has been planned - we could promote?
- Kids activities (more than just the stickers and tattoos.)
- Textiles?

**Textile Initiative:** Dori and Priya updated the Committee, with Charlotte chiming in about new service providers to DPW. The messaging surrounding textile recycling will be changed to convey 1) the broad range of items that are considered "textiles" by the recycling industry, and 2) that the condition or worn-out-ness of textiles does not matter in terms of its desirability by the recycling industry. ARC has a goal of improving the mapped information on the DPW web pages with greater detail. Priya inquired about developing signage for placement on either the large or small board outside of Town Hall. Larry shared that the signs are controlled by the Town Manager's office. If approved, ARC is responsible for the printing cost of the signs and DPW handles the installation. Otherwise, there is no additional cost.

**Want to Waste Less Food? event** - Tuesday, March 6 - 7-9pm Robbins Library Community Room. The topic is Food Wastage Footprint. Larry will be the moderator and the Panel will be Charlotte, Kelsey Juntwait (Food Link), Jeremy Marin (composting guru). They will speak for 6-8 minutes each. Kelsey Juntwait (Food Link's Outreach Coordinator) will promote the event.

There will be discussion, some handouts and snacks provided by Food Link. Juli is working with Kelsey on the flyer and showed us a draft. We'll print 50 in color and distribute to community bulletin boards and other key places like the Recycling Ctr on Feb 10th if it's ready. Larry provided a list of 45 bulletin boards to Dori, Juli, Priya and Patti via a google spreadsheet after the meeting.

**Discussion about reducing contamination:** This was spurred by global news about China's crackdown on contamination in the post-consumer recycled materials it purchases from US MRFs, and MA DEPs "Recycling IQ" initiative. We discussed trash audits again. Other ways that Arlington and ARC can plug into this initiative. And this piggy-backed on January's discussion of creating a corps of neighborhood-level volunteers who would help neighbors comply with recycling guidelines. Priya has been leading that discussion internally.

Ideas were surfaced such as: 1 - taking a Precinct-level approach and do tabling at Town Meeting; 2 - Tabling at the League of Women Voters debate in March; 3 - doing "stand-outs" at voting places on April 7th - Town Elections; Juli shared information on utilizing a designed "buckslip" that goes into Town property tax mailings to promote this initiative.

**R3 Conference:** MassRecycle puts on the next R3 conference on March 26th at the Sheraton Framingham. ARC budget can be used to pay for attendees' registration fee. Larry, Paul, Charlotte and Rachel Oliveri attended last year, and it was well worth the time spent. Larry will circulate more information about it. Hopefully we'll attend with a larger group this year. See: <http://www.massrecycle.org/r3conference>

**Greenworks tours:** Trying to expand the population that can attend as they are scheduled for Wednesdays in the morning. Larry mentioned that Arlington elementary schools all have 1:00pm Early Release on Tuesdays. Arlington home-schooler families are connected by a group called Homeschooling Together. Larry will provide Paul with a contact.

Submitted by: Larry Slotnick